

Aboriginal Health Research News

SPECIAL REPORT



In recent weeks there has been much concern over how CIHR will be implementing the CIHR Institutes' Modernization Project which includes the Institutes Model Review. The intention of this project is

for CIHR to adapt to a changing environment that demands accountability to Canadians and remains attuned to fiscal restraint. The Governing Council (GC) conducted the Institutes Model Review as per their mandate to do a review every five years. Under this review, the GC assessed "the structure, role, policies, financial framework and slate of the CIHR Institutes to ensure that they can effectively respond to current and emerging health research challenges, while considering whether Institutes are well positioned to take advantage of national and international scientific opportunities to help CIHR deliver on its mandate" ([CIHR website](#)).

The outcome of the review is to implement a series of enhancements aimed to better support the Institutes and their overall effectiveness. These enhancements include:

1. **Restructuring each institute's independent advisory boards (IABs).** It is being proposed that the IABs will be clustered and reduced to four IABs such that members will advise more than one institute. In doing so, the goal is to provide guidance and to add to collaborative efforts

across research pillars, disciplines, communities and sectors. The clustering options are still being worked out.

2. **Introducing a new model for collaborative strategic research – CIHR's Common Research Fund.** Aligned with the new model of clustering IABs, 50% of each Institute's \$8.6M budget will be pooled into a common fund further enhancing the capacity of CIHR's Science Council to initiate research opportunities that cross multiple sectors. This fund is meant to encourage the development of research initiatives that cut across institutes. The additional opportunity is for governments, charities, institutions, and other partners to leverage CIHR investments. *The Common Research Fund does not have mandatory 1:1 funding matching requirements; unlike the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) which does have this requirement.* More information about the Common Research Fund will be provided in early 2015.

3. **Reorganizing the dedicated Ottawa-based staff linked to each institute.** They will be integrated into the three CIHR portfolios: Research, Knowledge Translation and Ethics; External Affairs and Business Development; Resource Planning and Management. The integration of staff is intended to strengthen organizational coordination and corporate support. More information will be available in early 2015.

4. **Developing a robust framework to support a regular assessment of Institute performance and relevance.**

These changes have garnered much interest from within CIHR, Aboriginal communities and researchers whose main focus is Aboriginal health. The concern coming from Aboriginal health researchers is the expectation to find funding partners above and beyond any funding dollars granted through CIHR by partnering with resource industries. According to Dr. Rod McCormick in a statement he made in a recent [CBC interview](#), "many of these resource industries are the cause of many of our health problems so to get funding from them would be problematic."

The latest update in November, 2014 had the CIHR Governing Council reaffirm their position on the decisions to re-organize. Holding firm to their decisions, the GC will begin operationalizing their Institutes Modernization plan. During this time, senior CIHR management will maintain an ongoing dialogue with IAPH and Aboriginal Health researchers to ensure that specific matters of interest to Aboriginal communities remain represented.

While in this special report newsletter, we cannot definitively outline how the changes will be implemented, at the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, we want to ensure that information is readily available to our stakeholders. It is important to hear from you and we encourage researchers, community, potential partners and other interested stakeholders to send us your comments and suggestions by email at institutesmodernization@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.



CIHR News & Funding Opportunities

Travel Awards to attend Symposium on Mental Wellness in Circumpolar Communities

Travel Awards to attend the "Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities" Symposium will be offered for **Youth** to attend this event which will take place in **Iqaluit, Nunavut on March 25-27, 2015**.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Application deadline – January 19th, 2015
- Anticipated Notice of Decision – January 30th, 2015
- Funding Start Date – February 1st, 2015

Applicants must be from 18 to 30 years of age and a Canadian citizen from a circumpolar community. For more information, contact Jacques Dalton.

Transitional Operating Grant: 2014-15 Priority Announcements

The Transitional Operating Grant: 2014-2015 competition is being run in parallel with the Foundation Scheme: 2014 1st Live Pilot competition in order to facilitate the transition within CIHR's open funding schemes.

IAPH will provide funding for applications under two Priority Announcements:

- Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Two-Eyed Seeing (Bridge Funding)
- First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis Health (Bridge Funding)

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Application deadline – March 2, 2015
- Anticipated Notice of Decision – July 15, 2015
- Funding Start Date – July 1, 2015

For more information on the transition plan for the Reforms to the Open Programs, visit the CIHR website.

New CV Template for the Transitional OOGP Competition

To address a number of issues raised by the research community regarding the CIHR Academic CV, CIHR has implemented a new CV template for the Transitional Open Operating Grant Program (OOGP) competition. This template, the Transitional OOGP Biosketch, is shorter than the current Academic CV and streamlines the information provided to peer reviewers for the review process. The version of the Biosketch that will be used for the Transitional OOGP competition will be refined and used in future competitions under the new Project Scheme. Piloting the Biosketch in the Transitional OOGP will be an important step in preparing for this transition. The Transitional OOGP Biosketch is now available through the Common CV.

Please note that applicants will not be required to re-enter all of their CV information into the Transitional OOGP Biosketch. Their existing CV information will automatically be populated into the new template. However, as there are some changes between the Transitional OOGP Biosketch and the traditional Academic CV, some updates will be required, and applicants will need to allow enough time to update their CV information. **Only the Transitional OOGP Biosketch will be accepted by ResearchNet at the full application stage. Attempting to use any other template will result in an error, and applicants will be unable to submit their application.**

CIHR has developed supporting materials to help applicants update their CVs for the March 2, 2015 application deadline. These materials can be accessed through the Transitional OOGP funding opportunity. Webinars have also been scheduled to help support research administrators and applicants. Registration information is available online. Applicants who have already submitted their applications will be contacted directly to discuss the next steps.

If you have any questions regarding the Transitional OOGP Biosketch, please contact ccv-cvc@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

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CIHR-IAPH Website

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health fosters the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, through research, knowledge translation and capacity building. The Institute's pursuit of research excellence is enhanced by respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledge, values and cultures.